

# WORLD UNION OF WORKMEN.

Discussed by Gompers During His Trip Abroad.

## A STEP FORWARD TAKEN.

Cause Advanced by Visit of American Federation's President, He Thinks Found Greatest Contrasts in France. Most Contentment, Most Poverty.

Returning to America from his European trip, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared himself happy that he had worked to good purpose in bringing about a better understanding between Great Britain and the continent of Europe and between Europe and the American trades union movement as understood by the American Federation of Labor.

"My vacation was nothing but hard work," he said, "but I have seen a lot of interesting things. I am glad to be home."

Traveling with Mr. Gompers in his rapid journey was James W. Sullivan of the New York Typographical union. They interviewed government officials and labor leaders, doing little sight-seeing after their work was done. Mr. Gompers went away to attend as a "bear" or fraternal, delegate the British trades union conference at Ipswich, England, meeting on the first



SAMUEL GOMPERS.

Monday of September, and also the international trades union conference in Paris, following the other assemblage.

### Step Forward Taken.

He received respectful attention at both meetings and feels that a step forward has been taken in the direction of the formation of an international trades union league. He represented the interests of the people of America and made strong arguments.

"The question of an international federation could only be put forward as a suggestion," said Mr. Gompers. "It could not come as a motion, but it was printed upon the order of the proceedings for the conference at Budapest next year."

"I spoke on the questions that might affect American labor unions. They have a scale of wages abroad, and many organizations have agreements with their employers."

"My report will be made to the twenty-eighth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Toronto, the first convention ever held in Canada in heed of the request of Canadian labor on Nov. 6. The convention will continue two weeks."

### Most Contentment, Most Poverty.

"I seemed to find the most contentment and the most poverty in the actual meaning of that term in France. It is the French characteristic or temperament to be satisfied, but this reminds me of the man who didn't believe in strikes, as the story was told me by David Lubin of California, American permanent delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture in Italy, which has a splendid building. Egypt, this man said, had no strikes, but in Egypt, he was reminded, men go about wearing sacks for clothes, with a hole in each corner for sleeves."

"A healthy discontent with existing conditions, well controlled and well organized, makes for social improvement and the good of all the people."

Mr. Gompers said he wanted to get back before the decision of the United States court of appeals in the Bucks Stove and Range company's injunction case, in which he, John Mitchell, now of the trade agreement department of the National Trade Federation, and Frank Morrison were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment for contempt of court for continuing the encouragement in print and speech of a boycott. They appealed from the decision.

"I am ready to go to jail anywhere," said Mr. Gompers, "in defense of the right of American speech."

### Will Leave Million For Peace.

Edwin Gian, the publisher of Boston, an earnest advocate of international peace, has made provision in his will that on his death \$1,000,000 shall become available for the cause of universal peace. He will also contribute \$50,000 annually to the peace cause during the remaining years of his life.

## AN INTELLECTUAL MARVEL.

Harvard's New Eleven-year-old Student is a Mental Wonder.

William J. Sidis, the eleven-year-old boy admitted to Harvard university as the youngest matriculate in the long history of the institution, could spell, read and write at the age of two. He became deeply absorbed in books when other children were playing in the sand and making houses of blocks. He devoured everything readable that he could lay his hands on, and when he had advanced to the age of five his yearning for knowledge had also advanced to such a state that he began taking books from the Brookline (Mass.) Public library.

When he was six he was sent to the Runkle school. The school authorities placed him in one of the higher grammar grades, but withdrew him after six months, for he knew more than they taught at that school, and it would have been a waste of time to have kept him longer with the other pupils.

When he was eight years old he was sent to the Brookline high school, one of the best in the country, for it is supported by the richest town in the world. He remained there five months. That was long enough, for he was then further advanced than the school.

He evinced a strong liking for mathematics and physics at the age of eight and was greatly interested in astronomy and other sciences. At that early age he was ready for college, but his parents declined to send him to the higher institutions, as they were of the opinion that their son would do more thorough work at home. He was allowed to study whenever he wished and whenever he liked. He was never forced along any particular line.

This remarkable boy has been a puzzle to scientists, astronomers and mathematicians. He prefers the company of men and women who gather at his home, who are on an intellectual footing with him, to the boys of the neighborhood. He discusses advanced sciences with the learning of a professor.

When a boy of eight he spoke four languages. As a freshman at the Brookline high school he made astronomical calculations which puzzled professors in mathematics. Invented a new system of logarithms in series of twelve instead of tens, prepared an outline of advanced grammar and helped pupils in classes above him to master their lessons.

## COOK FOUND SANTA CLAUS.

At Any Rate, He Told a Little Chicago Girl He Made Discovery.

It was left to a little Chicago girl to discover the real object of Dr. Cook's and Commander Peary's heroic marches to the north pole. It was to call on Santa Claus, of course.

Jeanie McDonald, the tiny daughter of Isaac McDonald, found this out and wrote to Dr. Cook, addressing her letter North Pole, Brooklyn, asking him to please tell her what kind of a house Kriss Kringle lived in. She wrote:

Dear Dr. Cook—Did you see Santa Claus at the north pole? What kind of a house did he live in? Yours truly,

JEANIE McDONALD.

Dr. Cook has replied in part as follows:

"See Santa Claus? Why, of course I did. That's just why I went to the north pole. I went there to make sure that Santa Claus would not be angry at some of our grownups and big bad boys who have made fun of him and said they did not believe in him anyway."

"I found him in a huge snow palace, and every room from top to bottom was crowded with toys and candy and great big packages of good will and kindness and love for little boys and girls. And there were special packages, happiness and content and good fellowship, for the grownups."

"He looks just like his pictures too. He is always smiling, even when he is working hard loading his sleighs with his good things for the people down here. And he keeps his reindeers always ready for trips around to find out what the children will be needing at his next visit, and, although we were very hungry when we got there, we could not kill any of Santa Claus' animals, because he said that would prevent him from making all the calls he had to make among his children."

"See Santa Claus? Yes, indeed."

## CAUGHT BY THE SEARCHLIGHT

Locomotive Engineer Saw Oklahoma Man Riffing Mail Pouch.

Henry M. Kneeland of Muskogee, Okla., confessed that he robbed a mail pouch at Spiro. His defense was that he was drunk.

Just as Kneeland was rifling the pouch a train came around a curve, and in the headlight's glare the engineer saw him kneeling over the pouch. He was arrested on the engineer's description.

## LEARNING HOW TO WAIT.

Art of Tending Table Gracefully Taught at Chicago University.

There is now a school for waiters at the University of Chicago. Forty young men, who combine a deep knowledge of psychology and ethics with a gift of breaking dishes and spilling soup on professors, are being taught the gentle art of serving food in an ultra-cultured manner at Hutchison hall, the university commons.

### Wants to Be Hanged.

William Stevenson, claiming he has a thirst for blood and is dangerous to society and who is to be hanged at Luverne, Ala., Oct. 22 for murdering his young wife and daughter, is opposing efforts of friends who seek commutation of sentence.

## STAGE FOLK ANGRY.

Object to Being Called Unclean by Preacher.

### RESENT DR. AKED'S REMARKS

Sothern Retorts by Saying He Has Had Clergymen in His Company and Has Found Them Very Well Behaved.

In speaking of the injustice of prejudice the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Aked, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church of New York, the church attended by John D. Rockefeller, said:

"Take the case of actors and actresses. All Christian people put them under the ban. All Christian people regard them as unclean, and I tell you that Christian people have no right to be surprised if they act as though they were unclean."

The statement has aroused the leading figures of the stage as few other utterances have done in recent years. The general attitude is that Dr. Aked's statement belongs to the time when the English statutes classed actors as vagabonds.

When E. H. Sothern commented on the matter Miss Julia Marlowe was present and smiled frequent approval of the actor's satirical remarks.

"Until I read Dr. Aked's statement I did not know actors and actresses as a class had been placed under a ban by all Christian people and that 'all Christian people regard them as unclean,'" said Sothern. "But if we are it is eminently proper for him to plead our cause in the pulpit, that we may get a fair chance."

### Clergymen on the Stage.

"But this occurs to me. Though one continually hears of eccentric conduct on the part of persons connected with the church, there has not been, so far as I am aware, any unkindly criticism of those persons by the men and women of the stage. We have looked charitably upon these backslidings as the result of ordinary human frailties. We have never thought of ostracizing these church people as a class. I have some delightful friends among the clergy."

"I have had in my companies three clergymen, and we found them very well behaved. There really was nothing objectionable about them. One clergyman came to me while I was preparing 'The Proud Prince' and asked for an engagement. He said he wished to exchange the pulpit for the stage, for just what reason I cannot now recollect. Perhaps it was his voice."

"I thought of taking him, and he hastened to friends to tell of his good luck. He returned next day and said his friends thought he had better withdraw because he might not find the people in the company proper persons to associate with. I replied in all good humor that he need not let that deter him from earning his living with us, as the important thing might prove to be whether the people in the company would wish to associate with him. 'Besides,' said I, 'admitting we are a depraved lot, this is the place for you, a clergyman, right here in our sinful midst. Redeem us, act with us, pray with us, save us.'"

"He was a good natured, stupid looking sort of fellow, and he laughed and went away and left us to our wickedness. Well, he meant well. Dr. Aked means well. We all mean well. It is good to know that we are unclean—we can now begin to reform."

**Clergymen and Actors in Jails.**  
"Some time ago a clergyman started some such discussion as this, and the next day there appeared in the records of a legislative debate a statement that 4,000 churchmen were confined in jails, inebriate asylums or kindred institutions. At that time there were but three actors in the country confined in like places."

Miss Rose Coghlan, a distinguished member of an old stage family, was incensed by Dr. Aked's sermon.

"Perhaps Dr. Aked got his idea from the fact that actors and actresses are continually before the public and their troubles are thoroughly aired. Considerable space is given by newspapers to the troubles of society folk, and if newspaper interest continues to increase in them it won't be long before Dr. Aked will be able to get up in the pulpit and say that all Christians put society men and women under the ban and regard them as unclean. It is merely a matter of publicity, that's all."

"Dr. Aked's statements could have been inspired only by a desire for notoriety," said Robert Edson. "It is strange that a people so low in the eyes of Christians should continually be besieged by these very Christians with pleas for financial aid for charities. I know of no other class of men and women who give so freely to all worthy charities, not only of their money, but their art and their time, as do the people of the stage."

### TOBACCO'S NEW RIVAL.

Chicago Students Turning From Cigarettes and Pipes to Chocolate.

Chocolate is replacing the pipe and the cigarette as the really wicked and manly indulgence of Chicago university men if the result of the last report of the Reynolds club indicates anything. It shows that there was almost as much chocolate sold as tobacco. It is eaten right in the club-rooms and in large quantities. The club, a men's institution, has over 500 members.

## CRANE A FINE LINGUIST.

Chinese Among the Accomplishments of Deposed Minister.

Charles R. Crane, appointed minister to China by President Taft and requested to resign by Secretary Knox because of alleged indiscreet comments on the China-Japan treaty relating to Manchuria, is a Chicago man and the son of a millionaire father, Richard T. Crane, who doesn't believe in colleges.

"Instead of teaching young men to seek labor," says the elder Crane of the higher seats of learning, "they cause them to despise it, and the students leave the schools with the feeling that they are too good to work and smart enough to make their living by their wits."

So such education as he could get in the Chicago public schools was considered enough for Charles R. Crane.

His father thought he could graduate with honors in the college of hard knocks and put him in the way of doing it by setting him to work in his own manufacturing plant in Chicago.

Donning overalls and jumper, young Crane learned the business from the bottom upward, and after serving in



CHARLES R. CRANE.

various capacities from the lathe to the bookkeeper's stool he became first vice president of the concern in 1894 and took charge of the foreign business of the company. Mr. Crane thus started his career as a traveler, which in itself has been a liberal education. He also studied the languages of the countries which he visited.

Early in the course of his business affairs he went to Russia, where the Crane company has extensive interests. He went into all the provinces. He met officials and peasants and made a close study of life in the realm of the czar. He was well received at the Russian court and soon became an authority on Russian affairs.

When he was not in Chicago or Russia Mr. Crane was off ranging the globe elsewhere. A keen power of observation, continual travel and continuous study soon developed in him a deep knowledge of men and affairs. During his travels Mr. Crane spent much time in China, his business interests taking him into every province. He came into close contact with all classes of Mongolians. In his home is a large collection of curios of his many visits to China. Among the twelve languages with which he is conversant is Chinese.

## AMUNDSEN'S UNIQUE PLAN.

He Will Harness Polar Bears to His Arctic Sledges.

Captain Roald Amundsen, a widely known Norwegian explorer, who is about to start on a polar expedition, has decided to try a remarkable innovation in the use of draft animals for polar travel. He will endeavor to make polar bears draw his sledges.

Some time ago Captain Amundsen made a contract with Carl Hagenbeck of Hamburg, Germany, a famous animal trainer, for twenty ice bears three years old. Hagenbeck's men have been industriously training the bears for a month, and the results are said to promise success for them in polar work.

Peary, Cook and all the other polar explorers have used dogs to drag their sledges. When provisions ran low the dogs had to be killed and the meat fed to the surviving dogs. Very seldom, only when actually compelled, have the explorers lived on arctic dog meat. With the polar bears it is different. Should provisions run low a bear could be killed and the ruder of the expedition be greatly replenished.

## BASEBALL'S RECORD SEASON.

Will Rank as the Most Successful in the Game's History.

This year's baseball season of the National and American leagues will rank as the most successful in the history of the national game. According to estimated figures, the combined attendance reached the unparalleled total of 7,978,108, more than 700,000 in excess of the great record of 1908. Both leagues showed an increase over the previous season, but the American outdrew the older organization by 103,048.

The honors for the greatest attendance was carried off by the New York Nationals, a total of 783,700 persons witnessing the games at the Polo grounds, an average of 12,439. The Athletics of Philadelphia finished second with a total of 674,015, an average of 10,545 to a game. The Boston Americans were third and the Chicago Nationals fourth.

The largest crowd at a single game during the season was on Sept. 18. The Athletic-Detroit game at Philadelphia is said to have drawn 35,400 persons.

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